

Remarks

Applicants have amended claim 1 and have added new independent claim 18 and claims 19-28 dependent therefrom. The Examiner's comments and rejections are addressed below in the order in which they were presented.

Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected to claim 17, specifically a typographical error in the word "demagnetized." Claim 17 has been amended to correct this error and withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

The 35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,505,766 ("Chang"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection in light of the amendments to the claims.

Independent claim 1, from which claims 2, 4 and 5 depend, has been amended to recite that the gas stream is passed through the gas duct without passing through the sorbent structure. Chang teaches a baghouse having filter bags through which the flue gas passes. As the Examiner points out, the flue gas may pass by some of the filter bags, but, ultimately, all of the flue gas must pass through the filter bags to exit from the baghouse. Chang does not teach passing a gas stream over the surface of a sorbent structure without passing it through the sorbent structure. Therefore, Chang does not teach each and every element of claim 1 as amended and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Moreover, new independent claim 18 recites passing a gas stream through a duct having a sorbent structure disposed between a first end and a second end of the duct, wherein at least a portion of the gas may pass from the first end to the second end without passing through the sorbent structure. Again, Chang teaches that all of the gas must pass through the filter bags in the baghouse. Chang does not teach or suggest that a portion of the gas may not pass through the sorbent structure as recited in independent claim 18. Nor does Chang teach or suggest an apparatus comprising a gas duct having a sorbent structure therein in which at least a portion of the gas may pass from one end of the duct to the other without passing through the sorbent structure as recited in new independent claim 28.

Therefore, Applicants believe that independent claims 1 and 18, and claims dependent therefrom are in condition for allowance. The same is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicants note that the Examiner has allowed claims 6-17. In view of the above considerations, Applicants believe that all of the currently pending claims are in conditions for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney if a telephone call could help resolve any remaining items.

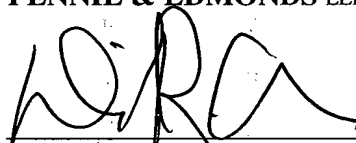
Applicants believe that only fees in connection with the newly added claims are due, and payment for the same is provided for the in concurrently provided Fee Transmittal Sheet. However, if it is determined that any additional fee is due, please charge the required fee to Pennie & Edmonds LLP Deposit Account No. 16-1150. A copy of this sheet is enclosed for this purpose.

Respectfully submitted,

PENNIE & EDMONDS LLP

Date: May 20, 2003

By:


David R. Owens
For Gary S. Williams

40,756

Reg. No.
31,066